

SINKING OF THREE GERMAN CRUISERS REJOICES ENGLAND

(Continued from First Page.)

Leipzig and Dresden were sighted near the Falkland Islands by a British squadron under Vice Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee.

An action followed, in the course of which the Scharnhorst, flying the flag of Admiral Count von Spee, the Gneisenau and the Leipzig were sunk. The Dresden and Nürnberg made off during the action and are being pursued.

"Two colliers also were captured. The vice admiral reports that the British casualties are very few in number.

"Some survivors have been rescued from the Gneisenau and the Leipzig."

German Admiral Probably Lost.

No mention is made of any of the crew of the Scharnhorst, which was the flagship of the German admiral, being saved, and it is thus presumed that Count von Spee, his officers and men went down fighting.

The British casualties were light, but beyond the fact that the British squadron was commanded by Vice Admiral Sturdee no information is vouchsafed regarding the ships engaged, and the newspapers are enjoined not to speculate, as "other combinations may be effected."

The greatest enthusiasm prevailed in London over the victory, and the general impression is that it will be completed, as the admiralty would not be likely to send ships that could not overcome the Dresden and Nürnberg, which are twenty-four-knot and twenty-three-knot vessels, respectively, and probably even slower after their long service. They are at a disadvantage, also, because of their small coal capacity.

The British squadron which engaged the Germans left England without the determination of the British government to clear the Pacific and south Atlantic of all German warships. It is

believed, therefore, that the British commander is at the head of a formidable squadron.

In addition to the Dresden and Nürnberg, only one German warship—the Karlsruhe—is now unaccounted for in these waters, although there may be one or two armed merchantmen which the allies have not rounded up.

As the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau each carried a complement of 755 men, the Leipzig, 256; the Nürnberg, 322; and the Dresden, 281, the total German loss is estimated at not far from 2,000 men, although the actual losses to the Dresden and Nürnberg cannot yet be known.

Naval Losses Unequal.

Naval observers, commenting on the action off the Falkland Islands, make note of the fact that in all naval engagements in the present war there is great disparity between the losses of the victors and the vanquished.

In the case of the British cruisers Monmouth and Good Hope, sent to the bottom by a German squadron off the coast of Chile early in November, the Germans were practically unscathed, and the same is true of the British in their victorious engagement in the south Atlantic.

In other words, defeat at sea means virtually annihilation and the loss of all crews with the exception of such men as the victors may be able to save.

This is attributed to a great extent to the fact that the British have been between ships of unequal armament. The German guns outranged the British off the coast of Chile, and the rules were reversed off the Falkland Islands. Nevertheless, it is argued that even with ships of similar armament, the disproportion of losses between the victor and the vanquished would be greater by far than anything possible in land warfare.

No Japanese Ships There.

TOKIO, December 10.—The British government has communicated to Japan an official account of the sinking of December 8 off the Falkland Islands, in the south Atlantic, of the German cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Leipzig, with a loss of about 1,500 men.

The reports make no mention by name of the British warships which took part in this engagement.

The Japanese navy authorities say no advice concerning this combat have been received from the Japanese warships on patrol in southern waters, consequently it is to be presumed that they did not take part in the action.

The British squadron in the south Atlantic, according to information given out here, was reinforced recently by several vessels armed with guns of heavy caliber.

Comprised Pacific Fleet.

The Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Leipzig, with the cruisers Nürnberg and Dresden, composed the German Pacific fleet which, in the engagement with the British squadron under Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock off the coast of Chile, November 1, sank the British cruisers Monmouth and Good Hope, with the loss of about 1,500 men.

Since that time British and Japanese squadrons have been searching for the German fleet, of which little has been heard.

Recent reports from Montevideo, Uruguay, were to the effect that the German fleet was believed to have rounded the cape and entered the south Atlantic, but there has been no authentic information of the whereabouts of these vessels since the battle with the British squadron.

The Scharnhorst and Gneisenau were the largest vessels of the German fleet. They were sister ships of 11,600 tons displacement, 450 feet on the water line and were rated at a mean speed of 22½ knots.

Armed With 8.2-inch Guns.

Each carried a complement of 755 men and were armed with eight 8.2-inch guns, six 6-inch guns, twenty 4-inch guns, four machine guns and four torpedo tubes.

The Leipzig had a displacement of 3,250 tons and carried 256 men. She

was 341 feet long on the water line, had a beam of 43½ feet and was rated at 23 knots. Her largest guns, of which she carried ten, were 4.1-inch.

She had also ten 3-pounders, four machine guns and two torpedo tubes.

Admiral Count von Spee, commander of the German squadron, was aboard the Scharnhorst, which was his flagship.

The British official statement shows that, as has been reported, the German squadron made its way from the Pacific to the Atlantic, the Falkland Islands, near which the German ships were sighted off the tip of South America, directly east of the Straits of Magellan.

AEROPLANE HUNTED SHIPS.

British South Atlantic Fleet Said to Have Employed Air Scout.

NEW ORLEANS, December 10.—That the British squadron sent in pursuit of the German commerce destroyers operating off South America was aided in its search for the eluding vessels by an aeroplane is the opinion said to have been expressed by officers and members of the crew of the Colon, a vessel plying between New York and Panama and owned by the United States government, according to mail advices reaching here from Colon.

According to the advices, the Colon, when 300 miles southeast of the Florida coast on its last voyage out, sighted an aeroplane, which because of its distance from shore was thought to be unattached to any land station.

The aeroplane, it was said, was first seen by Third Officer John Monroe, on watch, who called Capt. Mowbray of the Colon and Lieut. Smalley of the army, who was a passenger on the vessel. After approaching the Colon

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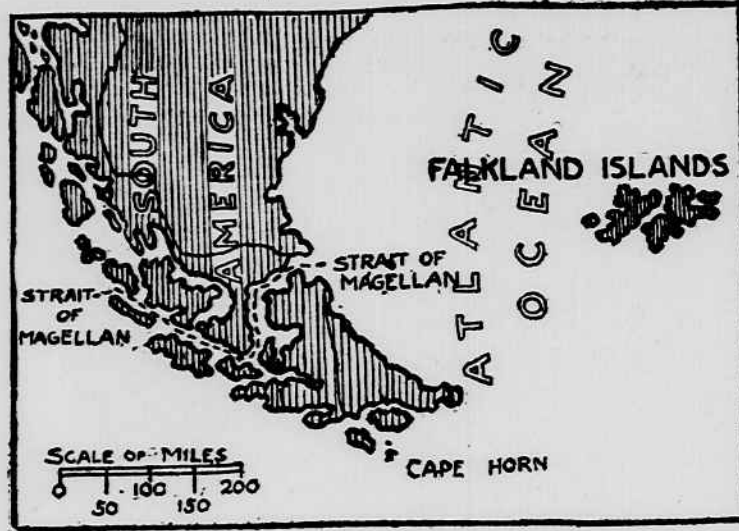
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SCENE OF THE SEA FIGHT IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC



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FAVORS PETTY'S CLAIM FOR WATSON CASE COSTS

House District Committee Recommends Former Auditor Be Reimbursed for Suit Expenses.

The report of Representative Ben Johnson, chairman of the House District committee, on the bill to reimburse J. T. Petty, former auditor of the District, for the expenses incurred by him in defending the Watson defalcation case, was made public today and presented to the House.

The report strongly indorses Mr. Petty's claim that he should not be made to stand any expense in the Watson matter, and urges Congress to act quickly to refund the legal expenses met by the former auditor.

Petty Not Implicated.

After detailing the Watson defalcation at the District building, amounting to \$74,563, Representative Johnson's report says:

"It is conceded on all hands that Mr. Petty, the auditor, was not in any way implicated in Watson's defalcations. At the time this shortage was discovered he had been auditor for fifteen years. Previous to his appointment to this office he had been a subordinate of the auditor's office for eighteen years.

"During these thirty-three years he served the District faithfully and conscientiously.

"The exact amount that had been embezzled by Watson was ascertained in July, 1903. On November 3, 1903, the District of Columbia, while implicitly conceding that Mr. Petty had misappropriated nothing, instituted suit against him and the sureties on his official bond to recover the amount that Watson had stolen.

"The theory upon which this action was based was that Mr. Petty was 'responsible for the money represented by the checks, and bound to make good the defalcations of the disbursing officer, and this because of the character of the duties imposed upon the auditor in respect of certain funds known as the permit funds, or the deposit and assessment fund, whole cost work, etc., etc.'

Money Stolen by Watson.

"The money was stolen by Watson alone. He was the 'pay clerk' of the District of Columbia, recognized by the District Commissioners and by Congress as such. He should have been required to give a bond to the District of Columbia for the faithful performance of his duties. The office he held was recognized as distinct

from that of auditor, although the 'pay clerk' was assigned to the auditor's office, really the duties of this clerk, which had to do with the disbursement of money, had no proper place in the auditor's office. The work of that office should have been limited to the keeping and stating of accounts; the examination or auditing of claims, vouchers and the accounts of other officers; the inspection of the receipts and expenditures of the various departments and such other work as is usually performed by municipal auditors. Clearly, the three functions of receiving, disbursing and auditing should have been kept separate; and it may be said that Watson's opportunity to peculate, or at least to commit his peculations, arose out of the faulty system in force at that time.

"Watson was nominated to this position of trust by one of the District Commissioners, was selected as a result of an examination prescribed by them, and finally received his appointment from them. Thus, all discretion relative to his nomination or appointment rested with the Commissioners and not with Petty.

"Mr. Petty did not embezzle a dollar of public or private funds. He received no benefit from any of Watson's peculations. He had nothing to do with Watson's appointment to the position of pay clerk, and the action against Mr. Petty and his sureties was groundless.

"In defending this case Mr. Petty and his sureties expended \$2,224 for counsel fees and other expenses. The question now presented is this: Should this expense fall on Mr. Petty and his sureties or on the District of Columbia? To answer the question: Should this expense be borne by Mr. Petty (who has been a faithful servant of the District for thirty-three years) and his sureties, who have not failed to comply with any contractual obligation to the District, or should it be borne by the District, by and for whose benefit the action, which, it is now known, was without merit, was prosecuted?

"The committee is fully aware that ordinarily counsel fees are not proper items of costs, to be taxed against the unsuccessful party, but it would seem that the case under discussion was an extraordinary one, and, to prevent an injustice, an exception should be made of it. The facts inducing this conclusion have been stated above and need not be repeated.

"The committee would not establish a precedent which would require the District to pay the expenses of all litigants against whom it instituted unsuccessful actions. The facts presented here are unusual and will seldom, if ever, appear again. It may be said, however, that statutes requiring the unsuccessful party to pay reasonable

counsel fees and expenses to his adversary in certain classes of cases have been in force in a number of states for many years."

Sherley Upholds Defense Condition.

NEW YORK, December 10.—"The person who believes that the defenses of this country are in other than a splendid condition is either ignorant or vicious," declared Swager Sherley, representative from Kentucky and chairman of the fortifications committee of the House, in an address at the annual dinner of the New York Southern Society last night.

"If you want work, read the want columns of The Star."

Anti-Armament Association Planned

NEW YORK, December 10.—To voice a protest against "agitation for increased armaments in this country," a committee comprising Bishop David H. Greer of the New York diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Oswald Garrison Villard, President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University and nearly a score of others last night issued a call for a meeting to be held here December 13 to organize a national anti-armament association.

If you want work, read the want columns of The Star.

Founded in 1867

MAKING GOOD EVER SINCE

You can have your Munsey Trust Co.'s Christmas Saving Fund checks cashed here.

Unusual Values in Boys' Clothing.

Consider them for either aspect—utilities, required now, or for holiday gifts. But we urge you to take advantage of the special prices—and to be sure of that you'll have to come tomorrow or Saturday. The quantities are not all big enough to hold out until Christmas. Indeed, for the most part they will be gone by Saturday night. Saks' Week-end Specials for the Boys are recognized as too important to permit of much delay.

Suits and Play Suits.

Modeled after the boyish heroes—Cowboys, Soldiers, Firemen, Indians, etc.

Boys' Military Outfits; in Blue and White; silk and gilt braid trimmed; U. S. A. on collar and eagle on cap. Sizes 6 to 12 years. SPECIAL... **\$2.98**

Boys' Indian Outfits; trimmed in Red and Blue felt; and with war-chief bonnet. Sizes 2 to 10 years. SPECIAL... **98c**

Boys' Cowboy Outfit; in Khaki, with lasso, bandanna, belt, pistol and holster. Sizes 4 to 14 years. SPECIAL... **98c**

Boys' Military Suit and Cap; Blue and White; gilt braid trimming; real military style. Sizes 2, 4 and 6 years. SPECIAL... **\$1.98**

Boys' Indian Suits, with feathered headpiece; fringing of Red, Blue and Green. Sizes 2 to 10 years. SPECIAL... **49c**

Boys' Gloves.

Gray and Tan Kid; and Gray Mocha; fleeced-lined Gloves—in all boys' sizes up to 7. **50c**

Boys' Neckwear